

Louisiana Believes

Advanced Placement Courses Frequently Asked Questions

Advanced Placement Courses

1. What AP® courses are public high schools required to offer?

Each high school shall provide students access to advanced placement (AP®) or international baccalaureate (IB) courses according to the schedule below:

1. at least one AP® or IB course in each of two core content areas during the 2012-2013 school year;
2. at least one AP® or IB course in each of three core content areas during the 2013-2014 school year;
3. at least one AP® or IB course in each of four core content areas during the 2014-2015 school year;
4. at least one AP® or IB course in each of four core content areas and one additional AP or IB course during the 2015-2016 school year.

2. How are AP® courses approved through the College Board Course Audit Process?

The school administrator or designee must create an AP® Course Audit account. They are responsible for finalizing AP® Course Audit forms, renewing authorizations annually, and assuring that the AP® Course Ledger entry accurately reflects AP® offerings at the school each academic year. For more information, see

<http://www.collegeboard.com/html/apcourseaudit/administrator.html>.

To apply the label “AP®” a teacher must create an AP® Course Audit account, then submit his/her AP® syllabus for authorization and an electronic Course Audit Form. If you do not have an AP® Course Audit account go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/html/apcourseaudit/teacher.html> to create an account and submit the required materials.

AP® Test Fees

1. Is there a grant or program that will pay for student AP® exams for the 2013 testing cycle?

Yes, the Department of Education will reimburse up to three low income exams per student. Additionally, the Department will reimburse test fees for new AP®/IB exams administered at a school to students who are not eligible for the low-income exams. Documents will be distributed in January 2013.

AP® Professional Development

1. What professional development opportunities will be available next summer?

The Department will reimburse expenses for teachers and administrators who attend College Board sponsored AP® trainings in the summer of 2013. A catalog of opportunities will come in January 2013 via the Department of Education’s newsletter.

AP® and Accountability

1. How are school performance scores affected by student participation in AP® courses?

The new cohort graduation index recognizes a score of 3 or higher on at least one AP® exam as the highest level of achievement earned by a cohort graduate. Each student with at least one AP® score of 3 or higher will earn the maximum 150 points toward the graduation index.

2. Are students recognized for achievement in the graduation index if they earn a 1 or 2 on an AP® exam?

Students who earn a 1 or 2 on an AP® exam receive 110 points toward the graduation index.

3. Do students have to take the AP® course to get credit for the test in the graduation index?

Students who score 3 or higher on an AP® exam do not have to be enrolled in an AP® class to be credited in the graduation index with 150 points. Students who score 1 or 2 on an AP® exam must have been enrolled in the class to earn 110 points.

4. Do AP® exam scores count for students who graduate in five years?

In the new graduation index, students earn 75 points if they graduate in five years, and they earn 150 points if they graduate with at least one AP® exam score of 3 or higher.

5. Do AP® exams count for students who are not graduates?

The AP® exam will count in SPS only when the student graduates with a diploma in the fourth or fifth year. For the cohort graduation index, the students can earn the AP® exam score at any time during the high school cohort graduation timeframe. Students who do not graduate will receive no additional points in the index for an AP® exam scores.

Summary:

In an effort to support your continuing implementation of Advanced Placement Course offerings so students have access to rigorous coursework that truly prepares students for college the Department is providing the attached FAQ document.

Should you have additional questions or concerns relative to AP please contact: Ernise.Singleton@La.Gov